

**The Transparent World Initiative
The Russian DAAC at ScanEx, Moscow, Russia**

This message announces an establishment of a Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) for satellite remote sensing data for the Russian territory based on the existing archive at Research and Development company ScanEx located in Moscow (<http://www.scanex.ru>) . ScanEx currently holds huge amounts of data from the Russian Resurs satellites. Recently, ScanEx built a ground receiving station for Terra MODIS and started collecting and archiving data over the European part of Russia. Two more receiving stations built by ScanEx are being installed in other parts of Russia.

Based on the experience at ScanEx in data archiving and distribution, a project "Transparent World" is being undertaken, with ScanEx serving as a DAAC for Landsat data over Russia. This initiative is directed at consolidating all available Landsat data over Russian territory that have been and will be bought from the U.S. Geological Survey EROS Data Center by Landsat users. This project is planned as a "pot luck" or an "open club" initiative, in which the participants are called to contribute either their data or pay a one-time fee. The Russian DAAC at ScanEx and the "Transparent World" project are endorsed by the Land-Cover/Land-Use Change Program at NASA Headquarters.

Current issues of using Landsat in Russia: Researchers who study land-cover and land-use change over Russia using Landsat observations face a dilemma whether to acquire original scenes from USGS Eros Data Center for a relatively high price or to search for potential users that already have purchased these scenes so that the datasets could be requested from them and copied (there is no copyright agreement on Landsat-7 data; earlier Landsat data can be freely reproduced 10 years after the day of acquisition). The first option may be unaffordable to a wide community of researchers, especially when large-scale studies are to be undertaken and Russian taxes on purchases from abroad are taken into account. Moreover, Russian scientists not having foreign currency accounts have trouble paying to foreign institutions. The second option, on the other hand, may turn out to be very time consuming since there is no central mechanism for distributing

information on scenes purchased at USGS EDC (requester, time, metadata, etc.). It is especially difficult for researchers in Russia to follow the second path because of communication problems.

Benefits of a central data archive for Russian studies: The world science community will greatly benefit from having a center that would consolidate the Landsat and other data over Russia that have been already paid for and that would provide a mechanism for accessing these data directly from this center for a nominal price of data duplication and producing CD-ROMs.

Participation in the the Transparent World project : To start organizing a data library of the available, "purchased once" Landsat data, we call for researchers interested in continuous access to data over Russia to participate in the **Transparent World project** using one of two options:

- 1) contacting ScanEx and agreeing on transferring a copy of some available Landsat data, or
- 2) paying a \$625 participation one-time fee so that more Landsat data could be purchased by ScanEx

The ScanEx DAAC will collect, archive and distribute satellite remote sensing observations over the Russian territory from Landsat. The **Transparent World** web site will provide browsing and on-line ordering capabilities. The data will be available in several formats specified on the web site.